

AGENCY: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

TITLE: “ACTIVITIES THAT ADVANCE METHANE RECOVERY AND USE AS A CLEAN ENERGY SOURCE”

ACTION: Request for Proposals (RFP)

RFP Number: EPA-OAR-CCD-08-01

CFDA: 66.034

SUMMARY: Formal Agency responses to frequently asked questions regarding the subject RFP

DATE: December 3, 2007

Eligibility of Applicants

Are private companies eligible to receive this grant?

No. Only non-profit entities and governmental entities are eligible to receive this grant. Proposals submitted by for-profit companies will not be considered.

Are multilateral organizations eligible for this grant?

Yes. Multilateral organizations are eligible to receive assistance through this RFP and are encouraged to submit proposals.

Are international governments eligible for this grant?

Yes. Non-U.S. government entities are eligible to receive assistance through this RFP and are encouraged to submit proposals. Government entities at the national, regional, local and municipal levels are all eligible.

Are companies that are wholly state-owned and run entities eligible to receive funding under this grant?

Yes. Many countries have companies, particularly in the Oil and Gas sector that are wholly state-owned and are a part of their national government. These entities, because they are a part of a foreign government are eligible to receive funds under this grant solicitation. **[note: Examples of such entities include Petroleos Mexicanos (PEMEX) of Mexico or PetroBras of Brazil.]**

Eligibility of Proposals

Are activities or projects completed in the U.S. eligible for this grant?

No. This grant is specifically for activities and projects that support methane capture and use projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition (EITs). Please note

however that U.S. entities undertaking activities to support methane projects in developing countries and EITs are eligible. *Projects and activities focused on promoting methane projects within the U.S. are not within the scope of this RFP and will not be considered.*

Although this RFP does not focus on domestic methane projects EPA has very active voluntary programs to promote methane capture and use projects within the U.S. in each of the four methane sectors. For more information on these programs please visit the sites indicated below.

<i>Sector</i>	<i>US EPA Program</i>	<i>Website</i>
Animal Waste Management	AgSTAR Program	http://www.epa.gov/agstar/index.html
Oil and Gas	Natural GasSTAR	http://www.epa.gov/gasstar/index.htm
Coal Mines	Coal Mine Methane Outreach Program	http://www.epa.gov/cmop/index.html
Landfills	Landfill Methane Outreach Program	http://www.epa.gov/lmop/index.htm

Are projects to promote methane capture and use projects from sources other than the four identified in the RFP eligible for funding? For example would a project or activity that promoted to capture methane capture and use from waste water be eligible for funding?

No. Projects or activities that promote methane capture and use from sources other than those identified in the RFP (animal waste management, coal mines, landfills, and oil and gas systems) are NOT eligible for funding. For example projects or activities that promote methane capture and use from waste water are outside the scope of this RFIP and will not be considered.

Can this solicitation provide funding for capacity building to support the design of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects under the Kyoto Protocol?

Since the U.S. is not a Party to the Kyoto Protocol, US government funds cannot be used for explicit implementation of the Protocol. This would include funding any CDM related elements of the project development process or contributions to the special funds set up as part of the Kyoto Protocol. The Methane to Markets Partnership, however, is intended to complement and not be a substitute for the Kyoto Protocol. EPA funds can be used for capacity building and project development support, including the identification and development of methane recovery and use opportunities. EPA recognizes the possibility that non U.S. government entities involved with projects supported through the Methane to Markets Partnership may independently pursue their inclusion in the CDM.

Process and Selection

How many grants will be awarded and how much money is available under this RFP?

EPA anticipates up to up to forty awards ranging in value from approximately \$100,000 to \$700,000, subject to the availability of funds and quality of evaluated proposals.

What is the largest project budget that will be considered under this RFP?

The awarded grants will range from \$100,000 - \$700,000 and will have a project period of 1-3

years. EPA will not consider proposals that exceed the \$700,000 limit.

Can I submit more than one proposal?

Yes. You may submit as many project proposals as you wish. Please note however, that these proposals will be reviewed separately and based on their own merit, not as a part of a group of proposals.

How will the proposals be reviewed and selected?

EPA will evaluate all eligible proposals using the criteria listed in the RFP and given a numerical score, with a total of 100 points possible. The criteria and possible number of points associated with each criterion are:

REVIEW CRITERIA	MAXIMUM POINT SCORE
Project Approach	35
Environmental Results—Outcomes and Outputs	20
Past Performance— Programmatic Capability and Reporting on Environmental Results	20
Staff Expertise/Qualifications	15
Budget/Resources	10
TOTAL	100

Please review Section V of the RFP for more detailed information on what these criteria mean, and for more information on the review process. **Applicants should directly and explicitly address these criteria as part of their proposal submittal.**

Are matching funds required as a part of the proposal?

No. Having matching funds as a part of the proposal is not a requirement for this RFP and all projects regardless of whether matching funds or in-kind resources are included will be reviewed and assessed. Please note however that *cost effectiveness* is listed as a key criteria for selection and having matching funds may improve the score of a proposal under this selection criteria.

What is the deadline for submitting a proposal?

The closing time and date for receipt of proposals under this announcement is **February 22, 2008, by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time(EST)** for paper and email delivery applications, and **by 11:59 p.m. EST on February 22, 2008 for applications submitted through Grants.gov.** Proposals received after this time and date will not be considered.

How competitive was the process last year?

101 applications were submitted in response to last year's grant solicitation. Of these, approximately 25% were either fully or partially funded. A list of grantees awarded funding through last year's solicitation is available.

General Information

Will there be other project funding opportunities under the Methane to Markets Partnership?

Any future project funding opportunities that arise under the Methane to Markets Partnership will be listed on the Partnership website at: <http://methanetomarkets.org/resources/general/index.htm>

How can I learn more about the Methane to Markets Partnership and future project funding opportunities?

Up-to-date information about the Methane to Markets Partnership is available at www.methanetomarkets.org . If you would like to receive email updates on funding opportunities related to methane capture and use projects and other more information about the Partnership please join the Methane to Markets Partnership Network on-line at: <http://methanetomarkets.org/partners/network/joinNetwork.aspx>

For a complete list of questions and answers regarding the Methane to Markets Partnership, please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/methanetomarkets/faq.htm>